

Administration

To: Finance Committee

From: Mason Becker, Manager of Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives

Date: March 10, 2025

Subject: Grant application for Dodge County Community Development Fund

Background

Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha and Jefferson Counties currently has under contract two parcels owned by Madison College, located along N Votech Drive. Habitat is acquiring the parcels with plans to build a total of six duplex builds (12 units total).

An extension for Wilbur Street is currently platted through the middle of the block between N Votech Dr and Elba St. City water and wastewater utilities already exist underneath the right-of-way. Completing Wilbur Street would also ensure this block matches the development pattern within the general neighborhood area.

Habitat recently submitted a formal request for the City to pay for construction of the road. While the City could assess property owners for this expense, the City paying for construction of the road could help the Habitat project move forward from a financial standpoint. Habitat is not requesting any other financial assistance from the City for this development. It would also unlock several other potential development parcels within the eastern portion of the block. Another developer has tentative plans to build duplexes on that site in the future.

Dodge County recently launched a new Community Development Fund Grant program. This program is designed to assist in funding municipal infrastructure to support residential and commercial development projects within Dodge County.

While approval of the grant application is not guaranteed, and will be reviewed by a committee, I did speak to Nate Olson, Dodge County's Community Development Administrator, and he felt this would be a worthwhile project to apply for. First round of applications closes on April 11th, 2025.

Budget Goal

Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities

Financial Impact

The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$200,000.00, per the Director of Public Works. This includes \$165,000 for the roadway, \$25,000 for stormwater improvements, and \$10,000 for design. If approved, the City would need to fund at least a 50% share of the cost for the project. Staff have identified multiple potential internal sources for this cost.

Recommendation

Approve that City staff apply for Community Development Fund Grant with Dodge County for the Wilbur Street connection project.